

FORM B - BUILDING

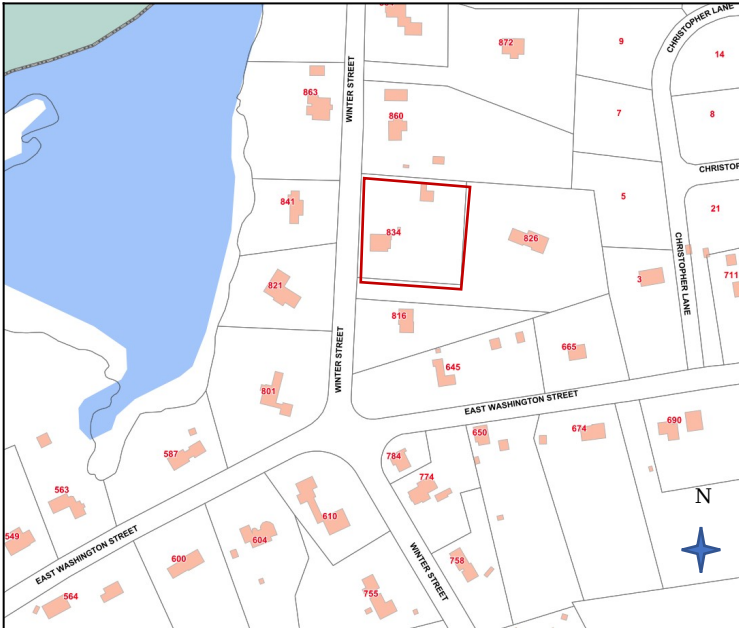
Date (*month / year*): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

114-0-14-0

Hanover

HNS.271

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 834 Winter Street

Historic Name: George Bennett House

Uses: Present: Single-Family
Residential
Original: Single-Family Residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1760

Source: White's History, Plan 5, No. 35

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Stucco, Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Wood picket and two style of wood board fencing surround the yard, a metal gate is located across the driveway, and a second structure appears on the assessor's map but is not visible from the public way.

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Dormer and enclosed porch on west façade, replacement windows and stucco siding

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.10 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares between a major intersection to the south and the town line with Hanover to the north in an open area of predominantly single-family homes on large lots which includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story Cape style structure has an asphalt shingled gable roof with a large, shed roofed dormer at the center of both its east and west roof slopes. A long, shallow shed roofed entrance porch covers the original west façade of the house while a small one-story addition appears in aerial views across the east facade of the building. The house is wood clapboard sided with wood trim. The exception to this is the enclosed porch on the west façade, which has a mix of stucco and wood panel finishes. A narrow, corbeled brick chimney extends from the center of the roof ridge and a second, painted masonry chimney is located on the north gable-end to the east of the roof ridge. The shed roofed porch obscures the trim details on the west façade of the building. On the north and south gable ends, the roof ends flush with the facades with only a narrow band of wood trim surrounding the pediment. The windows of the building are all replacement windows, the majority of which are six-over-six wood windows.

The house faces west towards the road with the shed roofed enclosed entry porch facing the street. The porch roof begins just above the eaves on the west façade and the surviving corners of the gable roof and the wood clapboard trimmed sides of the shed roof are visible on both the north and south facades. The shed roof extends out over the west façade of the porch with narrow, undecorated eaves. Below, a wide wood cornice board extends across the upper edge of the porch. Two pairs of large double hung windows are located to either side of the center entrance as well as on the north and south facades of the porch, with narrow pilasters topped by flat capitals and tall stucco finished bases located between each pair and around the door at the center of the west facade. Below the windows, flat, painted stucco panels run above a narrow stucco watertable between each stucco base. The fifteen pane French-style door is flanked by long, single pane sidelights. Two low cement steps lead to a brick walkway to the street. Above the porch, a shed roofed dormer extends across the center of the façade from the roof ridge to the start of the shed roof over the porch. A large, twelve-over-twelve double hung window at the center of the dormer is the full height of the dormer while the pairs of eight-over-eight double hung windows on either end of the dormer are much shorter.

The north gable-end façade is largely screened from view by a tall wood board privacy fence which has a vertical lattice detail across its top edge. The fence runs north then west from the northwest corner of the house and is itself screened by a large evergreen bush surrounding the northwest corner of the house. Two small double hung windows are visible in the gable-end to the right of the exterior chimney, but no details of the first floor or any additions to the east façade are visible from the public way. The south gable-end has the same two windows in its pediment over a set of three windows in the southwest corner of the first floor. These windows are located behind a similar wood board and vertical lattice privacy fence running from the southwest corner of the original house to the driveway to the south. A pergola installed above the windows extends across the side yard to the driveway, where its curved raftertails extend out over the asphalt. At the southeast corner of the house, a shed roof is visible projecting away from the house, but it is not clear whether this covers another one-story addition, porch or patio area.

The house is located on a large, heavily wooded site and has a small front yard located directly to the west of the house which is surrounded by a low wood picket fence with square posts and pickets in a scalloped design. To the north of the house, the wood board privacy fence comes out to the west property line and encloses all of

Continuation sheet 3

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the yard to the north of the building. The picket fence runs along the west property line from the privacy fence to the driveway, where it turns east and runs along the driveway to the privacy fence in the southeast corner of the house. A low stone retaining wall runs along the north side of the asphalt paved driveway while a cement curb is located on its south side, and a third wood board privacy fence encloses the yard to the south of the driveway. A decorative metal gate is located between two granite posts in the middle of the driveway. Within the picket fenced front yard, grass lawn is dotted by ornamental trees and foundation plants surround the house.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's History of Hanson, this house was built in 1760 by the Bennett family who lived here for many years. In 1758, George Bennett (1738-1821) married Hannah North Elles (there are variant spellings of her maiden name) in Abington.¹ This matches White's suggested date, as the couple appear to have built and moved into the new home shortly after their marriage. George and Hannah Bennett had at least nine children between 1761 and 1773. George Bennett, Jr., the middle son (1765-1820) married Leah Gardner in 1790. As George Sr was still living in the house on Winter Street, George, Jr. and Leah set up house elsewhere, and the homestead went instead to George Sr.'s youngest son, Samuel (1773-1793). From this Samuel, the property eventually passed down to Samuel Elles Bennett (1798-1863), the grandson of George Sr. and the son of George, Jr. and Leah. Samuel E. married Lettice Hill, daughter of Samuel and Hannah (Witherel) Hill, in 1822.

In 1826, Samuel E. and Lettice Bennett of Hanover sold a thirty-seven acre parcel running from Winter Street in the west to the Indian Head River in the east to Lettice's younger brothers, Thomas and Charles Hill.² The deed states that the land included buildings and had formerly been owned by another, now deceased, Samuel Bennett of Hanson, presumably George Sr.'s youngest son and Samuel E. Bennett's uncle, and bordered Thomas Hill's existing lands. That Thomas Hill (1797-1877) was the revolutionary war veteran, and his wife Mary, who lived at the time on an adjacent site. Thomas was a farmer and married.

For most of the nineteenth century, the house appears to have been divided into two separate units with two separate owners. Thomas Hill had married Malinda Thomas in 1823 lived in one half of the house, while Charles Hill, who married Susanna Foster in 1829, initially lived in the other. On the 1830 Smith Plan, though, the house is listed with just one owner, L. Hill. This may be a reference to one of Thomas and Charles' unmarried sisters, either Lucinda Hill (b. 1808) or Lydia Hill (b. 1790), who are known to have both still been unmarried and living together in 1855. According to White's History, the Hill family lived in the south end of the house while Eli Stetson lived in the north end of the house. It was the Thomas Hill family who sold their half of the house to farmer and millwright Eli Stetson (1794-1866). Eli was married twice - first to Harriet Josseyln in 1822 and later to Lucy Holmes in 1829 - and had two children, George Eli and Lucy. In 1872, George Stetson sold the north half of the house, also known as the "Thomas Hill place" to Seth Pratt. Meanwhile, the south half of the house was passed down through the Hall family to Charles and Susanna's grandson, George H. Hill, through their daughter Lucinda (1807-1883). George H. Hill sold the south half of the house in 1884 to S. Augustus and Emma Jackson. After her husband's death, Emma Jackson sold the south half of the house to Seth Pratt in 1894.³

The 1879 Walker Atlas identifies the house as belonging to both Pratt and Hill. By the 1903 Walker Atlas, Seth Pratt was the sole owner of both sides of the house and is the only owner identified. Seth Pratt (1827-1914) married Emeline H. Tribou in Hanson in 1847. While the local and federal censuses most commonly list his occupation as shoemaker, his death certificate in 1914 states that he was working as a farmer. Seth Pratt sold the Winter Street property to his son-in-law, Frank Hatch, a machinist at the tack factory, in 1900,⁴ but appears to have remained in the house until his death in 1914. At that point in time, the property is noted by White as running north all the way to the bridge over the Indian Head River in the north (recorded as both the New State Bridge and the Teague Bridge). Seth's daughter, Eva Pratt Hatch, inherited the property after Frank's death in

¹ Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988. A variant on this date is 1785 (Massachusetts, Compiled Marriages, 1633-1850) but the later date conflicts with the dates of their children.

² See Vital records of Pembroke to the year 1850: Births. pp. 106-107. <https://archive.org/details/vitalrecordsofpe00newe/page/106>

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 506, Page 897

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 790, Page 545

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1940, and sold the house in 1948 to John J. and Gladys Meada.⁵ The Meadas sold the house to Donald and Elizabeth Fardie in 1949, who stayed for five years before selling it in 1954 to Phyllis and George Dickey.⁶ The Dickeys remained on Winter Street until 1969, when the property was sold to Frank and Barbara Goodenough.⁷ The Goodenoughs sold the house in 1984 to Lynn Osborne, who later married William Ruff and sold the house in 1989 to Denise Schoener and Hope Brand.⁸ Denise Schoener continues to own the property today.

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⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1812, page 325

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2385, Page 269

⁷ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3551, Page 685

⁸ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 9022, Page 86

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